

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01 OES-03 FEA-01 INT-05 /098 W

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R 131616Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3630

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0068

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VN, AG, SS

SUBJECT: GIAP TO ALGIERS - GOOD TIMES AMONG OLD FRIENDS

1. VO NGUYGEN GIAP VISITED ALGIERS JANUARY 4-10 ON WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS "OFFICIAL VISIT OF FRIENDSHIP" IN RETURN FOR BOUMEDIENE'S 1973 VIETNAM VISIT. GIAP ACCOMPANIED BY DRV DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

2. GIAP GOT MORE THAN STANDARD VIP TREATMENT. IN ADDITION TO WHAT APPEARED TO BE GENUINE POPULAR ENTHUSIASM, FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA SURFACED TO RECEIVE HIM AND TO BID HIM FAREWELL AT AIRPORT. BOUMEDIENE RECEIVED HIM TWICE, HOSTED LUNCH, AND PAID RETURN CALL ON GIAP.

3. ONE PUBLIC HIGHLIGHT WAS GIAP MEETING WITH POLISARIO REPRESENTATIVES FOLLOWING WHICH GIAP ISSUED ASSURANCE OF VIETNAMESE SUPPORT FOR SAHRAOUI PEOPLE (ALGIERS 29). EAST GERMAN POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAYS THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS DRV PREPARED TO PROVIDE CONCRETE AID AND ADVICE TO POLISARIO. WE TEND TO BELIEVE VISIT MORE USEFUL HERE AS SYMBOL OF SUCCESS OF REVOLUTIONARY WARFARE RATHER THAN AS ANY PRECURSOR OF ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE.

4. OTHER HIGHLIGHT WAS FLN MASS MEETING (MEDIA ALLEGES
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10,000) PRESIDED OVER BY BOUTEFLIKA AND GIAP. THRUST OF THEIR SPEECHES WAS EMPHASIS ON THE "PERMANENT ANTI-

IMPERIALIST REVOLUTION" BASED ON HAVANA-ALGIERS-HANOI
AXIS. PICTURES OF HO CHI MINH AND BOUMEDIENE DOMINAT-
ED OCCASION AND SUCCESSES OF REVOLUTIONARY WARFARE
AND OF REVOLUTIONARY REGIMES PREDOMINANT THEMES.

5. LOCAL OBSERVERS NOTED THAT DURING VISIT PRESS,
FOR FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL YEARS, IDENTIFIED BOUMEDIENE
AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN ADDITION TO HIS OTHER
TITLES, AS WAY FOSTERING IMPRESSION VISIT REPRESENTS
REUNION OF TWO REVOLUTIONARY WARFARE VETERANS. GIAP
HIMSELF FURTHERED THIS IMAGE BY PUBLICLY DESCRIBING
BOUMEDIENE AS "A TRUE REVOLUTIONARY, AN AUTHENTIC
COMRADE IN ARMS."

6. DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS IN ALGIERS HAVE LITTLE SENSE
OF WHAT SUBSTANCE, IF ANY, LIES BEHIND VISIT. MOST
ATTRIBUTE VISIT TO ALGERIA'S DESIRE TO SHOW IT DOES
ENJOY SUPPORT OF CARD-CARRYING -- AND SUCCESSFUL --
REVOLUTIONARIES FOR THEIR SAHARA VENTURE.
GIAP PROVIDED ENCOURAGEMENT WITH SUCH LINES AS
"WHAT VIETNAM HAS DONE, ALL DETERMINED PEOPLES CAN DO".
FRENCH EMBASSY SPECULATION HERE PARALLELS THAT OF
QUAI (PARIS 360), BUT FRENCH MINISTER COUNSELOR
PROFESSES TO HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION.

7. MAIN CURRENT CONCRETE TIE BETWEEN VIETNAM AND
ALGERIA IS OIL. DURING NGUYEN THI BINH VISIT LAST
JUNE ALGERIANS AGREED GIVE VIETNAMESE 100,000 TONS OF
OIL. AT THAT TIME DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE
SPECULATED VIETNAMESE WERE INTERESTED IN STUDYING
SONATRACH'S METHOD OF OPERATION AND ORGANIZATION.
AS REFLECTED IN PARIS 361, DRV APPARENTLY ALSO SEEKING
EMULATE ALGERIANS IN SEPARATING POLITICAL
DIFFERENCES AND IDEOLOGICAL ANTAGONISM FROM PRAGMATIC
COMMERICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. EAST GERMAN
POLITICAL COUNSELOR STATES THAT DRV DELEGATION DURING
DECMEBER VISIT HERE ASKED ALGERIANS TO SELL DRV
400,000 TONS OF OIL AND TO GIVE 100,000 TONS. HE
STATES THAT ALGERIANS AGREED TO SALE, THOUGH THEY
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WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BUY OIL ELSEWHERE THEMSELVES AS
THEIR 1976 PRODUCTION ALL COMMITTED, BUT ARE STILL
STUDYING GIFT REQUEST.PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMITY, PETROLEUM, MINISTERIAL VISITS, LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ALGIER00068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760012-0902
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760164/aaaacepx.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GIAP TO ALGIERS - GOOD TIMES AMONG OLD FRIENDS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, ENRG, VN, AG, SS, (VO NGUYGEN GIAP)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006